

# THE BAPTIST Record

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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Miss. vols blanket NYC with ministry

By Tim Nicholas  
Staff writer

At a toll booth just outside of New York City, the booth employee told a van load of volunteers, "Faith and prayer — that's all we've got."

That's what 15 Mississippi Baptists took with them Thanksgiving week when they traveled to the site of the nation's greatest disaster in New York City to cook for construction workers, firefighters, police officers, and other personnel.

The volunteers in New York City who are members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, spent the week of Thanksgiving cooking in a Salvation Army kitchen in the first exercise of a disaster relief cooperative agreement between the Salvation Army and Southern Baptists.

The kitchen operates 24 hours a day near Ground Zero, the excavation site of the World Trade Center where terrorists flew jet airliners into the twin 110-story towers on Sept. 11 and killed several thousand people.

The week of cooking was part of a multi-pronged strategy of response to the attacks in New York City. Each prong of that strategy further enmeshes the hearts of Mississippi Baptists with disaster victims and site workers alike.

"We definitely lost our hearts to New York," said Kay Cassibry, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union director. She and Didlake have made three disaster relief trips to New York City since the terror attacks, and Didlake also served in Washington, D.C.

Other disaster relief ministry projects in New York City have included chaplaincy work, development of an apartment-cleaning operation, child care, thousands of dollars in donations for victims, and a ministry of encouragement aimed primarily at one police precinct near the attack site that lost a large number of their peers in the attack.

Mississippi Baptist children and adults have sent more than a thousand messages of their love and God's love to the remaining officers of a precinct where staff members are still working around the clock to identify remains of victims and to find missing persons.

New York City Police Captain Kevin Walsh received a new batch of letters and cards from Mississippi Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action, noting how important the messages — displayed on virtually every wall of the station — are to his staff.

One message from a Mississippi child declared, "The United States wouldn't be united without you."

Walsh said that one of the detectives for which Mississippi Baptist children prayed was Susan Morley. When the American Airlines plane crashed into the Rockaway area of Queens in New York City on November



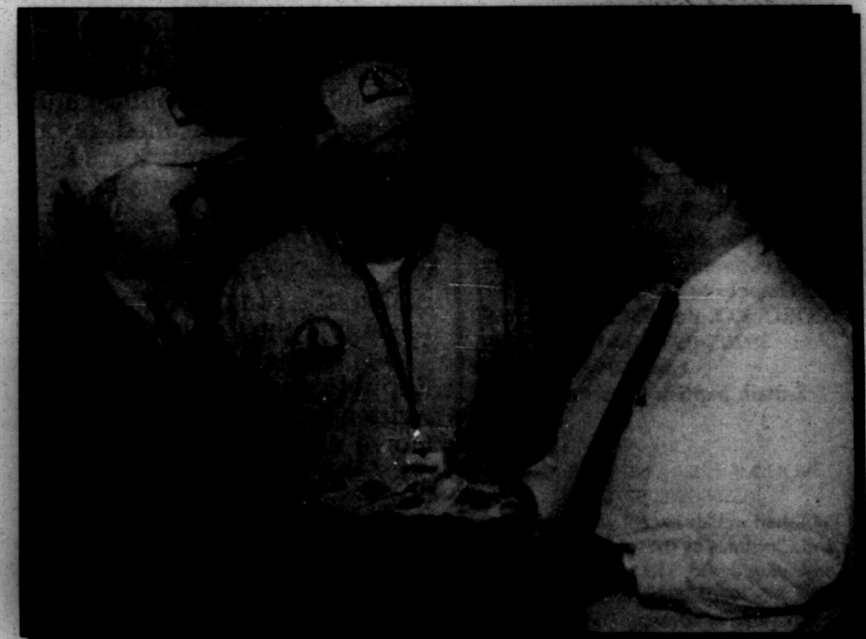
**CLEANING MINISTRY** — Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, wears a special suit and breathing apparatus as she helps clean an apartment in the area of the World Trade Towers collapse in New York City. Mississippi Baptist volunteers developed the novel apartment cleaning ministry while they were in New York City during Thanksgiving week, serving as members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force. (Photo by Jim Didlake)

12 — a crash investigators believe is unrelated to the earlier terrorist attacks — jet fuel from the plane burned Morley's house where her son and her mother were staying. After nearly an hour of frantic searching, Morley's husband, also a police officer, found the pair had escaped safely.

Walsh recounted what a police inspector said: "All those people in Mississippi praying — it must have done something."

In October, Didlake, Cassibry, and three others traveled to New York City at the request of Mickey Caison, who heads the

*Continued on Page 4.*



**NOTES OF PRAYER** — Jim Didlake (left), director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and disaster relief coordinator for Mississippi Baptists, and Barri Shirley (center), MBCB associate executive director for business services, present New York Police Captain Kevin Walsh with messages of prayer and concern from Mississippi Baptists. On the wall behind the trio is artwork from students at Brandon Middle School in Brandon, Miss. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

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**MEAL PREP** — Kathy Burns (left), consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, and Barri Shirley, associate executive director for business services at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, help prepare a hot meal at a Salvation Army kitchen for workers in the area of the World Trade Towers collapse in the lower Manhattan area of New York City. Shirley and Burns were among 15 Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers who ministered in New York City during Thanksgiving week. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

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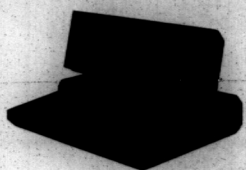
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"I've never felt God's presence stronger in what we did," said Mississippi team leader Jim Didlake, director of the Men's Ministry Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Didlake is a veteran of more than 20 years of disaster relief work and serves as coordinator of disaster relief for Mississippi Baptists.

Mississippi Baptists have been able to send dozens of disaster relief volunteers to assist the Southern Baptist disaster relief effort in New York City and Washington, D.C., — the site of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon — thanks to gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering, which provides funding each year for disaster relief equipment, supplies, support, training, and rapid response.



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# The Baptist National Guard

**T**hey've received a lot of publicity lately, but that's not usually the case. It's not that they dislike getting good press; it's just that loitering reporters can be mighty pesky when you've got a job to do. Especially when the job you've got to do is for the glory of the Lord.

They are the volunteers who make up the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force. They are our co-workers and neighbors. We sit next to them in Sunday School. They are just like you and me — until the call to duty is sounded.

When they get the call, they spring into action like the equivalent of a Baptist National Guard, coming to the rescue of helpless people when they are at their most vulnerable point. That's just who Mississippi Baptist disaster relief workers are.

There's almost nothing they would refuse to do if it will bring honor to the name of Jesus Christ and/or result in even one lost person coming to know him as Lord and Savior.

They have battled tropical heat and pestilences in Haiti. They have felt the ground move under their feet in California, as earthquake aftershocks rattled the area in which they were working.

They have dodged post-hurricane mud slides in Central America and swept water moccasins from flooded houses. They have repaired storm-damaged homes and churches, and comforted devastated families. They've even cleaned filthy apartments located around the collapsed World Trade Towers in New York City as a post-attack ministry.

Sun or rain, blazing hot or numbing cold, they can be found at their stations responding to our Lord's direction as found in Matt. 26:34-40:

*"Then the King shall say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I*

*was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

*"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'*

*"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers take seriously those words of our Lord. There have been a few cut fingers and stubbed toes along the way, but thank God there have been no serious injuries to these men and women as they move about in some of the most dangerous post-disaster areas in the country and the world.

The huge tractor-trailer rig that serves as Mississippi Baptist's main mobile kitchen can turn out thousands of meals on commercial-quality equipment. Doing so, however, requires volunteers to work around high voltage from on-site generators and hundreds of gallons of propane.

Common kitchen accidents could be magnified many times over, given the scale of the operation — especially when attention and reflexes are dulled from several day-and-night cycles of cooking and cleaning and then starting all over again. Yet they persevere, and the Kingdom is greater for their efforts.

It should also be noted that the work of these skilled volunteers would be greatly



**DISHING UP RELIEF** — John Richardson, a member of Ogden Church, Benton, and a volunteer for the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, tends four large pots of food being cooked for victims and workers involved in the aftermath of the November 24 tornado in Madison County. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

hampered without financial help from Mississippi Baptists. Gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering each year provide the funding necessary to support the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force.

It takes money to maintain heavy-duty disaster relief equipment and stock the shelves with the type of food that is available at a moment's notice. It takes money to provide specialized training for volunteers — one of the main reasons there have been so few accidents and injuries. It takes money to help transport the volunteers to disaster sites and support them while they are there representing us for weeks on end.

Gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering take care of all those needs. We can support the disaster relief volunteers by supporting the offering and praying for these brave men and women.

That way, you too can be proud the next time the call goes out to our own Baptist National Guard.

## GUEST OPINION:



### A heritageless generation?

By L. Lavon Gray,  
Minister of Music & Media  
First Church, McComb

the many generations that have come before us. A connection with a nation divided by Civil War; a connection with those whose memories are preserved on the white crosses of Arlington and on the beaches at Normandy; a connection with generations who are remembered in the silent depths of Pearl Harbor and in the black granite of a Washington D.C. wall; a connection made possible only through heritage.

I also found it striking that in this time of crisis it was not the popular songs of personal expression that rang out in worship, but rather stately hymns of faith. As the words to "A mighty fortress is our God" and "O God our help in ages

past" sounded out across America, we were again connected with many generations before us. Not only generations who had lost battles and won wars, but Christians such as Martin Luther and Isaac Watts who have passed their experiences on to us through the hymns they penned. Don't misunderstand me. As a parent of two young girls, I want them to sing the songs of their generation such as "Shout to the Lord" and "Majesty." I also want them to rely on the strong theological comfort gleaned from hymns such as "Abide with Me" and "All creatures of our God and King."

Many church leaders of today would have us believe

that only contemporary, upbeat music can reach the masses. Are we willing to give this generation, our children and our grandchildren, what they want at the exclusion of what they need? It is in this that we should be reminded that in our attempt to reach the masses and incorporate the contemporary music of the day, we must NEVER abandon our heritage. For it is this heritage that will help sustain us in our darkest moments of defeat and will facilitate our rejoicing in our highest moments of victory.

The church of this generation has been handed a "flaming torch" of strong Christian heritage in the hymns of our faith. The question is, will we allow the important tenets of our faith to be passed on to the next generation or will we extinguish that heritage in an attempt to be "relevant" to our culture?

Sir Winston Churchill once stated, "Most people, sometime in their lives, stumble across truth. Most jump up, brush themselves off, and hurry on about their business as if nothing had happened." God forbid that this be said of us!



# Prof calls terror victims 'great Americans'

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — During an emotional speech, a Southwestern Seminary church history professor and retired brigadier general from the U.S. Army said the common denominator of those who died at the Pentagon Sept. 11 was, "They were all great Americans."

James Spivey, the former assistant chief of chaplains in the U.S. Army, returned to the seminary to a warm welcome to give a recent chapel address at Southwestern Seminary.

Spivey had been at the Pentagon since being called to active duty Sept. 15 to develop a family support center for the victims of the Pentagon attack.

The loss of life at one of the pillars of this nation's defense was great, as 124 people died in the initial attack with another dying at a hospital a short time later.

"What was the common thread that ran through all of them?" Spivey asked. "They were all great Americans. They were all there defending this country. That was their commitment, to defend not only the Constitution of the United States, but the country for which it stands."

Spivey thanked the students and faculty for their prayers and support during his absence and then detailed the events that transpired at Ground Zero at the Pentagon.

"Crashing into the limestone brick and concrete walls of that five-ring building," Spivey stated, "[the plane] penetrated all



HOME FROM PENTAGON — James Spivey (at podium) returns to Southwestern Seminary to address faculty and students during a Veterans Day chapel after serving since Sept. 15 at the Pentagon to help victims' families. (Photo by Richard D. McCormack)

the way to the 'C' ring. It collapsed the five stories in an area of about 75 feet."

He then told how emergency crews came to rescue and to recover, but "unfortunately it was mostly a recovery operation," as the few who survived were able to walk out on their own.

In the six weeks Spivey served at the Pentagon, he and the Pentagon Family Assistance Center ministered to 184 families.

Of those who died, all the passengers on the plane and all but six of those who died in the Pentagon have been identified, Spivey said, "but who were these people?" he asked.

A face without a name is almost useless, he said, and a

name without a history is almost the same. As the days of helping the families of the victims went by, Spivey began discovering who some of these faceless people were.

Some had made plans for what to do in case of a terrorist attack.

One family's dreams evaporated Sept. 11, Spivey recounted, as the husband never again would hear his wife's voice.

Some of the faceless people were new to the Pentagon or had recently been transferred into the area struck by the jetliner.

One man, a Navy civilian video technician, was known as the "Candy Man" and was said to always have a smile for everyone.

Each name and each face were connected to someone, and each face and name had a life still to be lived. To Spivey, however, the attack's greatest devastation was the effect it had on children.

Choking back tears, Spivey told of a mother who informed her two young children that their daddy would not be coming home again because he had been killed at the Pentagon. The children broke out into hysterics and began weeping with anguish, Spivey said.

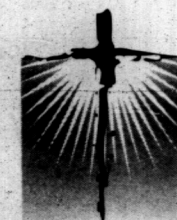
A short time later one of the children asked the mother, "Mom, what will we do for the family picture at Christmas this year? Mom, are you going to have to go to work?"

These are the lives connected to the faces of the heroes of Sept. 11, Spivey said. Of the 125 people who died, 55 were soldiers or sailors and 71 were civilians who were "just as equally serving their country even though they were not in a military uniform," he said.

Some were of different races and ethnicities and some were from different countries, yet all called this country theirs and faithfully served her.

Most of those who died were Christians from different backgrounds, he said.

Forty were Roman Catholics, 30 were Baptist, 40 others were of Protestant denominations and one was Buddhist.



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FRONT PAGE

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## Little change detected

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Americans went to church in droves after September 11th, but few of them found anything "sufficiently life-changing" to keep them there, says George Barna, whose most recent poll was released this week. Barna also found that after Black Tuesday, fewer people believe in absolute truth, leaning rather toward a circumstantial ethic. "Our assessment is that churches succeeded at putting on a friendly face but failed at motivating the vast majority of spiritual explorers to connect with Christ in a more intimate or intense manner," said Barna. The most "startling shift," according to Barna, was that moral truth got muddier among Americans after the attacks. Prior to Sept. 11, 38% of adults surveyed agreed there were absolute moral truths that fit into any circumstance, yet after the attacks only 22% claimed to believe in the existence of absolute moral truth. Barna also found that the most common source of moral guidance among Americans is their feelings (25%) followed by the lessons and values they learned from their parents (14%). Only 13% of the adults surveyed said they look to the Bible when they make moral and ethical decisions. The study adds that, despite assumptions to the contrary, prayer is "currently at its normal level, with 85 percent praying to God in a given week." The study also found that, after the attacks, fewer people believe in an all-knowing God and fewer believe in Satan as a real person, rather they see him now as a symbol of evil. "After the attack, millions of nominally church or generally irreligious Americans were desperately seeking something that would restore stability and a sense of meaning to life. Fortunately, many of them turned to the church. Unfortunately, few of them experienced anything that was sufficiently life-changing to capture their attention and their allegiance. They tended to appreciate the moments of comfort they received, but were unaware of anything sufficiently unique or beneficial as to redesign their lifestyle to integrate a deeper level of spiritual involvement."

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

If revival doesn't sweep the world in 1992, it won't be for lack of effort on the part of Dan Jarvis. Jarvis, a 12-year-old boy from Seville, Ohio, is calling the world to fasting and prayer on Jan. 25, 1992, with the goal of sparking world revival.

### 20 years ago

Dan West, manager of Mississippi Baptists' Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, along with his wife Rachel, and their three children are seriously injured in a two vehicle collision. Prognosis is good for the recovery of the entire family, doctors report.

### 50 years ago

According to Charles W. Stott, director of admissions at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, enrollment for the second term of this session totals 820 students. A total of fourteen students graduated from the school in the first term.



# Disaster vols stretched from NYC to home

JACKSON, Miss. (Special) — The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force was called to perform double duty shortly after a series of severe storms and tornadoes struck the state on November 24, killing at least five people and destroying or damaging hundreds of homes in eight Mississippi counties.

While 15 task force volunteers were returning November 24 from Thanksgiving week ministry at the site of the September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City, disaster relief coordinator Jim Didlake, director of men's ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, activated the task force's massive mobile kitchen to respond to the needs of victims and rescue workers in the Fairfield subdivision area of Madison County.

At least two people died, many more were seriously injured, and scores of

homes suffered major damage in that tornado, which National Weather Service officials estimate packed winds of well over 200 miles per hour.

Didlake also requested that Holmes Association's mobile kitchen be dispatched to Mt. Prospect Church near Lewisburg in DeSoto County to assist victims and rescue workers in that area.

Storm damage there included 25-30 affected homes but no known serious injuries, according to Holmes Association missions director Jerald Welch.

Feeding began in Madison County on the evening of November 24 and in Lewisburg

at noon on November 25.

The response unit in Lewisburg, which included five volunteers and was led by Welch, returned home after supplying meals on November 25, while the larger state Baptist mobile kitchen stationed at Broadmoor Church in Madison remained in operation through November 28.

A total of 1,250 hot meals were served by the unit in Madison, and about 215 meals were served by the Holmes Association unit.

Welch commended the assistance his unit received from Mt. Prospect Church members, who he said continued to provide meals to area residents after the Holmes Association crew headed home.

"The church served probably 85-90 more meals after we left," Welch said.

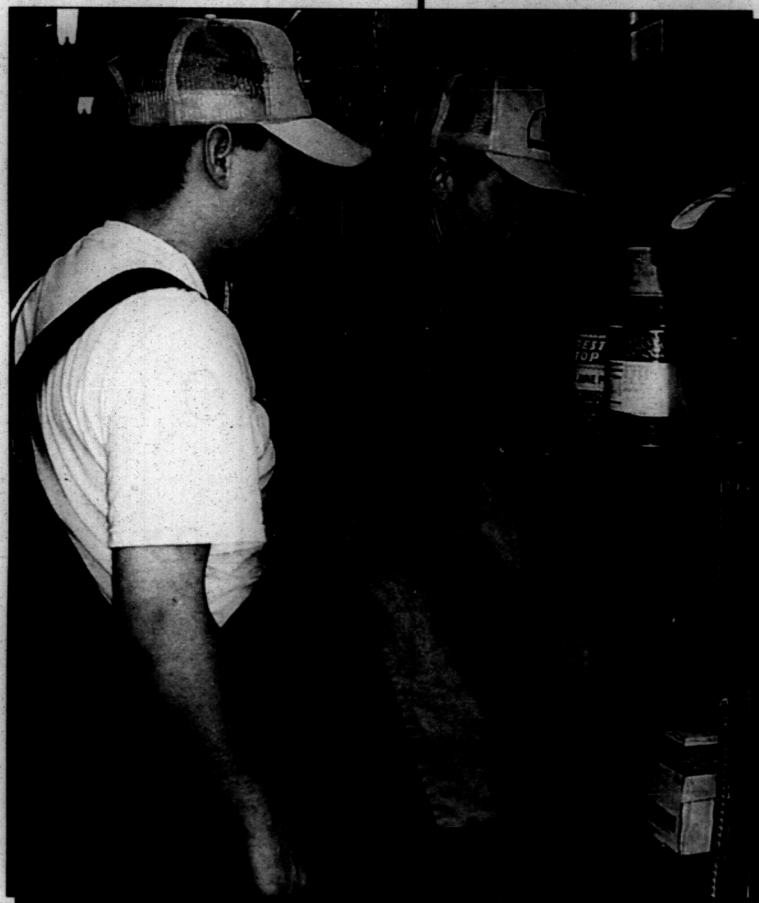
The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force is funded by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering. The offering provides the means each year to purchase and maintain disaster relief equipment, supplies, support, training, and rapid response capabilities.

Baptists from churches in the Madison County area also turned out in large numbers to help in the cleanup after several spontaneous organizational efforts.

John Temple, pastor of First Church, Madison, led in recruitment of at least 150 area Baptists from eight churches who



**WELL DONE, PLEASE** — William Wright (right), pastor of McDowell Road Church, Jackson, grills meat patties November 26 at the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit under the watchful eyes of fellow volunteers Jerry Stough (left) of Pearl River Association in Poplarville, and Paul Cassibry of Clinton. The men were preparing meals for victims and response workers in Madison County's Fairfield subdivision, the site of a lethal November 24 tornado. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



**CASE BY CASE** — Scott Griffin (left), pastor of Enon Church, Mantee, and Carl Myers, newly-called missions director for Pearl River Association in Poplarville, check food supplies November 26 in the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit prior to beginning meal preparation for victims and response workers at the site of the November 24 Madison County tornado that killed two people and injured several others. The unit was working from the parking lot of Broadmoor Church, Madison. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

*Continued from Page 1.*

Southern Baptist disaster relief program for North American Mission Board (NAMB).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local health departments asked Baptists to look into the possibility of bringing in volunteers to clean apartments near the World Trade Center, many of which needed professional cleaning due to the debris that blew into the dwellings as a result of the September 11 attacks.

Viewing the request as a ministry opportunity, the Baptist volunteers began securing professional grade vacuums and other cleaning equipment. Asked what kind of public announcement was needed to get the program started, Didlake said, "We need to pray for an apartment."

Two hours later, a family was referred through two agencies and the Baptist volunteers went to work. Assisting with the apartment cleanup were Didlake; Cassibry; Don Gann, pastor of Wynndale Church,

Terry; and Mike and Wanda Klein, "mud-out" specialists from Kentucky.

By the end of the first day, more referrals came from the satisfied family.



**LOAD 'EM UP** — Carl Myers (left), newly-called missions director for Pearl River Association in Poplarville, and Allen Watts of McCool, load a hot meal November 26 into waiting American Red Cross vans to be delivered to victims and response workers involved in the deadly November 24 tornado in Fairfield subdivision of Madison County. Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief workers prepared meals on the parking lot of Broadmoor Church, Madison, until November 28. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

aided victims in cleanup throughout the weekend of November 24-25.

Kathy Herrington of First Church, Madison, worked November 25 with her family among the ruins of Fairfield subdivision. "I'd want somebody to help me if this happened to me," she said.

John Henry of Briar Hill Church, Florence, led teams of Baptist volunteers in Madison County in covering roofs of storm victims. Other Baptist volunteers covered roofs in several other communities across the state.

"We had a very positive response from the community," said Didlake. "Many came by to visit with us and express their thanks."

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force, contact the Men's Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3334 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 334. E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

"Within a week's time, we had 200 apartments by word of mouth," said Didlake. "That's why relationships are so critical in disaster relief — that people trust you."

So far, Baptist volunteers from several states have cleaned more than 400 apartments with more than 300 on the waiting list. Many of the apartments require a five-person crew working two days to complete.

Another Mississippi team is scheduled to clean apartments in New York City beginning the first part of December.

Only days after the September 11 attacks, seven Mississippi Baptists led by Didlake spent a week on the streets of New York City serving as chaplains.

Mickey Caison said NAMB is developing a disaster relief chaplaincy program similar to military or police chaplains where candidates are commissioned by NAMB. Mississippi Baptists have "given us a lot of practical material for that program," he said.



# Turkmenistan religious repression decried

LONDON (BP) — Boris Shikhmuradov, the senior-most official to abandon Turkmenistan's authoritarian regime, has launched an attack on the repression of religious believers in the Central Asian country.

Former foreign minister Shikhmuradov, in a recent telephone interview with Keston News Service, charged that all decisions about religious affairs are made personally by Turkmenistan's president-for-life, Saparmurat Niyazov, thus making religion no different from any other aspect of life in Turkmenistan.

"If he doesn't liquidate it, it must be controlled. Every believer is controlled by the KGB," Shikhmuradov said.

While Islam exists under tight state control, the former Turkmen official said Christianity has been "crushed." Other religious minorities also are persecuted, he said, especially the Baha'is, for whom the nation's capital, Ashgabad, once was a major center.

"Turkmenistan needs religious liberty immediately," declared Shikhmuradov parted company with the Niyazov regime only a few days earlier, after being dismissed as ambassador to Beijing.

"This is an essential human value. The state must not interfere in the life of reli-

gious groups. We will have such religious freedom after Niyazov," he said.

Turkmenistan has the most repressive policy toward religion of all the former Soviet republics. Only Muslim communities loyal to the officially sanctioned Muslim Board and some parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church have been allowed to register.

All other faiths are treated as illegal. Believers have been harassed and fined for their religious activity. Some have been imprisoned, including the Baptist Shageldy Atakov, who is serving a four-year sentence.

Places of worship have been destroyed, such as the Adventist church in Ashgabad, bulldozed in November 1999. Hundreds of foreign religious activists, among them Muslims, Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses and Hare Krishna devotees, have been expelled in recent years.

"It is not true that only religious minorities, such as the Protestants or Krishnaites, are persecuted," Shikhmuradov told Keston. "The basic faith, Islam, is also persecuted."

The Russian Orthodox Church, the only other legal faith, has a number of registered parishes in several cities and towns, but

Shikhmuradov said it too has suffered.

"The Russian Orthodox Church is in a terrible state; it has no rights, though of course it is in a better state than the Baptist church, which is banned."



Asked who had been behind successive amendments to the 1991 religion law that made it all but impossible for non-Muslim and non-Orthodox religious communities to gain legal status, Shikhmuradov declared: "Niyazov decided himself to change the law."

Source: Keston Institute at [www.keston.org](http://www.keston.org).

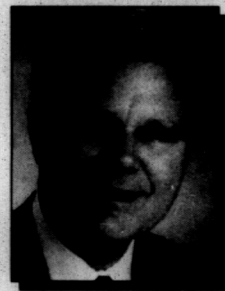
## PRAYING FOR PEOPLE

The Thanksgiving holidays and the days that followed Thanksgiving were very special, revealing, prayer days for me. I once again experienced and was reminded of the awesome power of prayer that sustains our great mission efforts and our missionaries. Let me tell you about it.

Kathy McNair and her husband, John, are missionaries to Uruguay. On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day, we here at the Baptist Building did something that we've not done before.

We put up a beautiful Christmas tree out in the foyer of the building. Each ornament that would be placed on the Christmas tree would have the name of one of our International Missionaries from Mississippi written on it.

In our Chapel service that morning, I led each of the building employees to participate by taking one of the ornaments and placing it on the tree. Along with hanging our ornaments on the tree, we made the commitment to pray for the missionary



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

whose name was on that ornament; to give a special offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering effort; and, if possible, to make some type of contact with the missionary.

Of course, there were dozens and dozens of ornaments and I just randomly picked one up and the names on my ornament read, "Dr. and Mrs. John McNair, Uruguay."

As I held the ornament and encouraged each person to take these missionaries to heart and pray for them, John and Kathy were printed on my heart. I prayed for them, but their names didn't go away. I continued to pray for them and they continued to be on my heart.

It is strange, sometimes, how the Lord impresses upon us to pray for folks and this was one of

those occasions for me. On Monday, following the Thanksgiving weekend, I was told that Kathy's dad, Marvin Lee, retired Associational Missions Director, had died. His funeral was going to be on Tuesday.

Early Tuesday morning I was able to contact Kathy and it was then that I began to understand why God had so clearly impressed upon my heart to pray for them. I realized that what I thought was just an accidental chance of picking up the ornament with their name on it, was divinely directed.

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, Kathy had been contacted by her family letting her know that her dad was in serious condition and might not make it. She was told to stay close by the phone.

The next day the phone call came that her dad had died. The family began to make arrangements to try to get home from Uruguay to Mississippi. While it is a long way and takes time, everything began to come together. Piece by piece, all the arrangements were orchestrated by the Lord and they arrived home Monday afternoon before the visitation on Monday night.

As I talked with Kathy on Tuesday morning, I told her how on the Wednesday before I had just randomly picked their name up without even looking, and started praying for them. She began to tell me what had transpired in their lives at that time

and I began to realize why God had continued to burden my heart and prompt me to stay in prayer for their family.

She continued telling me what they had been through and how the Lord, moment by moment, had met their needs and brought them home.

I was reminded again of the enormous and wonderful power of prayer. At the same time, I was reminded, once again, how important it is to pray for people.

What I mean is that so many times we want to pray only for problems, possibilities, or solutions. Yet, sometimes we can and should simply pray for some of God's choice people!

At times it is as though we don't know how to pray unless we know of a particular problem, then we can tell God what he ought to do about it. It is not possible, nor is it our prerogative, to know everything that is going on in everyone's life. When the Lord points us to praying for someone, we ought to do it because it does make a difference!

In this period of prayer for International Missions, it is impossible for all of us to stay up to speed with all that is going on with all of the challenges and crises that missionaries may be facing.

In light of that, I am reminded and blessed to know that God will guide us in praying for our missionaries. Prayer is not just us knowing that somebody is in trouble and praying for them. It may be praying for somebody and God guiding them through the trouble!

Take time right now to experience some God-guided prayer as you remember your family, your church and its leaders, and as you think about missionaries and people groups — God will lead you as you pray and he will bless you as you see his hand at work.

No BR  
published  
on Dec. 27

Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to fifty issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on December 27. The final issue of the year will be published on December 20, so all news and information to be included in that issue must be received in the offices of the newspaper by December 13. Likewise, all news and information for the first issue of the new year on January 3 must be received by December 13. For more information, contact The Baptist Record at (601) 292-3218 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 218. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD

The Singing Christmas Tree will be presented at Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson, Dec. 7-9, at 7 p.m. each night. For additional information, call (601) 372-7812.

Boys and girls in Awana at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur, pictured are (top photo) three and four years old; (middle photo) kindergarden-2nd grade; and (bottom photo) 3rd-6th grades.



Three and four years old Awana at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur



Kindergarden-2nd grade Awana at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur



3rd-6th grade Awana at Clarke Venable Church, Decatur

GAs of Macedonia Church, Petal, honored their pastor, Nelson Crozier, during pastor appreciation week by presenting him with a basket of home made goodies along with letters of appreciation. Pictured (from left) are Amanda Woods, Taylor Stewart, Haley Powell, Hannah Keyes, Katie Gibbs, and Hannah Upton; (second row) Allison Scruggs, Brooklee Lightsey, Crozier, Anna Raven Smith, and Haley Dossett.

Physicians from Baptist Health Systems (BHS) in Jackson recently announced their entrance into the nationwide quality improvement initiative named CRUSADE. This national program will analyze and modify treatment patterns of up to 60,000 patients suffering from Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) commonly known as chest pain. BHS will collect data on certain chest pain disorders for approximately six months. Emergency room physicians and cardiologists will report on the treatment, procedures, and medication received by each patient with this diagnosis. For additional information, contact Robby Channell at (601) 968-5135.

Color It Christmas will be presented by the sanctuary choir of Byram Church, 5866 Terry Road, Jackson, on Dec. 23 at 10:30 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be held in fellowship hall following the musical. Brenda Quattlebaum is minister of music. Roy Maine is pastor.

The Wonder of Christmas, a night of worship and song, will be presented at First Church, Calhoun City, at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 16. Other musical activities include A Carol of the Bells, featuring the handbell choir at the morning worship service on Dec. 9. Also, selections will



GAs of Macedonia Church, Petal

be presented by the Woman of Praise at the 7 p.m. service on Dec. 9. Greg Engell is minister of music. For additional information, call the church at (662) 628-6454.

GAs of Shoreline Park Church, Kiln, recently sent 50 pairs of glasses to Honduras. They also sent a box of supplies to Paul Roaten, missionary in Arkansas. Pictured (from left) are Shelby Keeton, Jeannie



GAs of Shoreline Park Church, Kiln

### CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 60 cents per word, minimum of ten words; maximum of fifty words. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No third ads. ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.

**THE MISSISSIPPI TABLECLOTH** and other stories - \$7 - great gift! Order from Guy Henderson, 202 McDonald Drive, Clinton, MS 39056.

**ATTENTION MINISTERS** and self employed. Finally affordable health insurance call (662) 568-3482. Underwritten by the Mega Life & Health Ins. Group.

**CFI - PEWS, NEW & used.** Baptistries, steeples, & stained glass, MS & AL. (800) 830-0583.

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO** - custom church windows, reworking and repair - Columbus/Jackson (877) 477-1899.

**ALLEN MDS-40-S DIGITAL ORGAN.** Perfect condition. Contact Jim or Susan Link at (601) 264-2116.

**CUSTOM STAINED GLASS** windows for churches and homes. Stained Glassworks, Inc. (800) 605-2970.

**PEARL RIVER GLASS STUDIO, INC.** (800) 771-3639; www.prgs.com. New stained glass church windows, repair and restoration, baptistry murals.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY** Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

**BRANSON, MO, CONDO** - sleeps six. Stay 3 nights, 4th free or 5 nights, 6th and 7th free. Free coffee, tea, and cocoa. \$100.00 daily. Register for free return trip. Accommodates large groups. Call early for reservations (662) 746-4632.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking full-time pastor with seminary degree and some experience. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, 1710 McArthur Drive, Mansfield, LA 71052.

**CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth. MRE degree required and some experience preferred. Church has new education facilities, family life center, and provides excellent benefits and salary package. Send resumes to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Centreville, AL 35042.

**PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER POSITION.** We are a church running 800 in worship service seeking a minister to preschoolers and children. We are located in a fast-growing medium-sized city in the heart of Arkansas. Seminary training and experience preferred. Send resume to Second Baptist Church, Attn: Stephanie Crockett, 701 Polk St., Conway, AR 72032.

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH IN NASHVILLE, TENN.,** is seeking a full-time minister of students. If interested, send resume to Grace Baptist Church, 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207. Attention: Pastor Andre K. Dugger.

**SEEKING: DYNAMIC, GROWING, SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH** in Northern Kentucky is seeking a full-time Minister of Preschool/Children. Strong organizational and management skills and a desire to be a part of a strong ministry team are required. Please send resume to: Florence Baptist Church, PO Box 456, Florence, KY, 41022-0456, ATTN: Karen Byrd or email to ksbfinsec@zoomtown.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON,** is seeking a minister of music. The church is located on Highway 43 South between Pelahatchie and Puckett. Please submit resume to: Antioch Baptist Church, 2350 Highway 43 South, Brandon, MS 39042.

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time associate pastor/minister of music and youth. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH IN STARKVILLE** is seeking a full-time secretary. Must have computer skills. Send resume to Adaton Baptist Church, 1975 Highway 82 West, Starkville, MS 39759; or call (662) 323-3735.

**CHURCH IN JACKSON** suburban area is prayerfully seeking a full-time youth minister. If you feel God may be leading you to this ministry opportunity, please send your resume and letter of interest to: Search Committee, Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073; or fax (601) 845-0991.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

December 6, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## 2002 Senior Adult Retreats

### Magnifying the Senior's Life

#### Gulfshore CONFERENCES

I	II	III
May 13-16	May 20-22	May 23-25
Cost: \$127	Cost: \$87	Cost: \$87

#### GUEST SPEAKERS AND

PAID IN FULL

John McCall  
Clinton, Miss.

Sonny Adkins  
MBCB

Frank Pollard  
Jackson

Frank Gunn  
Biloxi

Registration	1:30 p.m. on the 13th	1:30 p.m. on the 20th	1:30 p.m. on the 23rd
Adjourn	1 p.m. on the 16th	11 a.m. on the 22nd	10 a.m. on the 25th

#### CONFERENCES OFFERED:

- Spiritual Warfare • Grandparenting • Coping with Change
- Habit of Joy (humor) • Agape Road • Crafts • Leadership
- Better than New • Ways of God

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3373

## 2002 Baptist Doctrine Study Preview -

- Main Street Baptist Church  
Hattiesburg  
January 28, 2002
- McLaurin Heights Baptist Church  
Pearl  
January 29, 2002
- First Baptist Church  
Grenada  
January 31, 2002



For more information, contact Glenn Shows at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3373

All  
previews  
are from  
9 a.m.-noon

Preregistration is requested. The cost is \$10, which includes brunch and a copy of this year's doctrinal study book, *Called to be Holy*, by Rick Melick.

#### Ninth Hour



## State Singles Retreat Gulfshore Baptist Assembly May 25-27, 2002

### Keys to Survival on the Island of Life

Guest Speaker: Ron Hill, Trinity BC, San Antonio



#### Conferences:

- "Survival: Vote Me Off This Island" (women) - Diane Swain, Little Rock, Ark.
- Leadership (men) - Ron Hill, San Antonio
- Spiritual Warfare - James Haynes, Biloxi
- Agape Road - Gwen Williams, New Orleans
- Cajun Humor - Mickey Bounds, Farmersville, La.
- Self Esteem - Karen Battles, Tupelo

#### Retreat Fun Favorites:

- Concert - Ninth Hour, Madison
- Seafood Banquet
- Night Light Theater / Mining
- Survival Blast With Juggling
- Ice Cream Fellowships

#### Sunday Afternoon Options:

- Tour Foreign Ship • Alligator Farm
- Mall • Gulfshore Events
- Homeless Ministries (New Orleans)
- Others

A Unit:  
(2 persons) \$95  
C Unit:  
(4 persons) \$86

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3373

#### Registration begins February 1, 2002

Register before May 1 and get a free t-shirt.

Deposits: \$40 per person or \$80 per family (Visa and MasterCard accepted)

Mail check to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571

Phone: 228-452-7261





## Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Winter Retreat

January 25-26, 2002

**Gray Conference Center - 1530 Way Road**  
(about 10 miles north of Canton, turn off of Hwy 51)

*"Known Only to God: Affirming the Sacred Deed"*

**Led by Kenneth R. Gilburth**  
*of Pathways Counseling Group, Jackson*

*Come join us in a beautiful, peaceful setting, away from the stress. Take a walk in the fresh air and sit by the fire.*

- There is no cost for chaplains and spouses who are members of the association.
- To register for the Winter Retreat or to get more information, please return the registration form, or call Elaine Smith at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3361.

### Registration/Information Form Chaplains' Association Winter Retreat

- ☐ Please send me more information  
☐ I am a member of Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please register by January 11, 2002  
Mail to: Strategic Missions Department, MBCB  
Attn: Elaine Smith  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

## MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE JANUARY 21-22, 2002 COLUMBIA, MISSISSIPPI BETH SIGREST, JR.

### Schedule

**Monday, January 21**

**Afternoon Session, 1:30 p.m.**

Music ..... R.L. and Beth Sigrest  
Messages ..... Junior Hill, Fred Lowery, Nelson Price

**Evening Session, 6:30 p.m.**

Music ..... Larry Kulke and Colonial Heights choir  
Messages ..... Len Turner, Junior Hill

**Tuesday, January 22**

**Vocational Evangelists Session, 9 a.m.**

Music ..... Mona Faith, Steve Walker  
Ronnie Cottingham, Gerald and Cindy Simmons  
Jimmy Knight, Myrna Hedgepeth  
Messages ..... Billy Smith, Tim Posey, Charles Smith

**Lunch Break, 11:30 a.m.**

**Afternoon Session, 1:30 p.m.**

Music ..... R.L. and Beth Sigrest  
Messages ..... Mac Brunson, Len Turner, Nelson Price

**Evening Session, 6:30-9 p.m.**

Music ..... Mississippi Singing Churchmen  
Messages ..... Fred Lowery, Mac Brunson

**Special Guest**  
**Dennis Lee**  
*'Nana Puddin'*  
*Productions*  
Dallas

#### Activities:

- Preschooler/Children - TeamKID; Teenagers - Mini Centrifuge with Harvey Ellis, Youth Consultant, MBCB

#### Adult Conferences:

- Single-Parenting - James Haynes, FBC, Biloxi
- Ways of God - Matt Buckles, MBCB
- Couples Conference - Ron and Karen Mumbower, FBC, Jackson
- Men's Conference - Ron Mumbower
- Women's Conference - Karen Mumbower

#### Family Week Favorites:

- Concert - Ninth Hour, Madison
- Bar-B-Que Cookout
- Whole Free Day
- Ice Cream and Watermelon Fellowships
- Night Swimming

A Unit: Adults (12 yrs. & up) \$172.75  
Children (2 yrs. to 11 yrs.) \$56.63  
C Unit: Adults (18 yrs. & up) \$154.75  
Youth (12 yrs. to 17 yrs.) \$94.25  
Children (2 yrs. to 11 yrs.) \$58.63

For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 292-3373



## REGIONAL SINGLES RALLIES

**Friday, January 25, 2002**  
**Central Hills, Kosciusko, 662-289-9730**

*Cost: \$10 includes meal, or \$5 payable at the door, no meal*

- Supper reservations required by Monday, January 21
- Music by *Ninth Hour*, Madison
- Conferences:
  - Bible Study – led by members of *Ninth Hour*
  - Fun Time – led by Jan Halford, Jackson
  - Leadership – led by Randy Impson, Starkville
- 6 p.m. – Supper
- 7 p.m. – Rally
- 10 p.m. – Adjourn

**Saturday, January 26, 2002**  
**Jeff Davis/Covington Family Center, Collins**  
**601-765-4689**

*2-5 p.m. (Supper 5 p.m.)*

*Cost: \$10 include meal, or \$5 payable at the door, no meal*

- Supper reservations required by Monday, January 21
- Music by *Ninth Hour*
- Conferences:
  - Bible Study – led by members of *Ninth Hour*
  - Fun Time – led by Jan Halford, Jackson
  - Leadership – led by Glenn Shows, MBCB

### REGISTRATION

Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.  
 Mail to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
 attn: Glenn Shows, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530  
 Deadline: January 21 (Monday)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please mark which rally you will attend and how many.  
 # \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, Jan. 25 - Central Hills, Kosciusko  
 (Check one) Supper / Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Only \_\_\_\_\_  
 # \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, Jan. 26 - Jeff Davis / Covington Family Center, Collins  
 (Check one) Supper / Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Only \_\_\_\_\_  
 For more information, contact Glenn Shows in the Discipleship and Family Ministry  
 Department, MBCB, at 1-800-748-1651, or at 601-292-3373 (Jackson).

## Deacon Ministry Emphasis 2002

**Deacon Ministry Emphasis . . .** is a plan with specific actions that high-light deacon ministries and involves deacon training and service.

### *The Purpose Of Deacon Emphasis Is To*

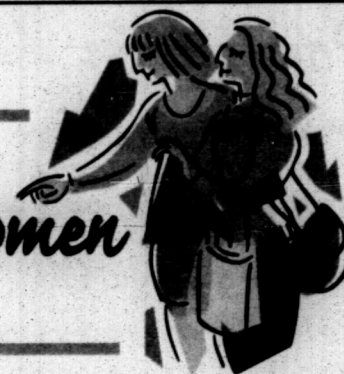
- Focus on their biblical role
- Build team relationships
- Secure involvement in ministries
- Develop skills for ministry

**Deacon Emphasis Week** is scheduled for **January 13-20, 2002**, but a deacon ministry emphasis may be conducted at any time during the year.

To participate, the deacons would choose at least two actions and perform them during a specified time (preferably during **Deacon Emphasis Week**).

For more info, contact the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Dept.  
 at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

## Regional Women Reaching Women Training



**Saturday, January 26, 2002**  
**8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**FBC, Clinton**

For church and/or associational leaders  
 (Present or Potential)

- \$20 per person registration fee  
 (includes training materials, snacks and lunch)

For registration information contact Sharon Brewer at  
[sbrewer@rankinbaptist.org](mailto:sbrewer@rankinbaptist.org). For questions call  
 1-800-748-1651 and ask for Kathy Burns, or e-mail  
[Kburns@mbcb.org](mailto:Kburns@mbcb.org). If you need lodging at Patterson  
 Place, contact Alicia at [adungan@mbcb.org](mailto:adungan@mbcb.org).

Hosted by Rankin Baptist Association Women's Ministry,  
 Mississippi Baptist Women's Visionary Team, and LifeWay.



## First Contact/ Homebound Tour



**January 21, 2002**  
**Temple Baptist Church (West)**  
 5220 Old Hwy. 11, Hattiesburg

**January 22, 2002**  
**First Baptist Church**  
 1560 Popps Ferry, Biloxi

**9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

### FIRST CONTACT

ministry is designed to provide an ongoing emphasis for out-reach and ministry through the Preschool Sunday School division by:

- helping your church discover, locate, and minister to young adult prospects
- discovering expectant parents and families with babies up to 12 months of age
- making contacts (visits, telephone, and write) on a regular basis.

Contact Linda Reeves  
 Sunday School Department  
 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 294

### HOMEBOUND

ministry is a bridge between the Sunday School, your church, and people who cannot come to the church facilities.

- Who are homebound adults?
- How do I organize a homebound ministry?
- Where do I find homebound adults?
- How do I make a homebound visit?
- What resources are available for Homebound Ministry?
- What about ministry?

Contact Mark Lott  
 Sunday School Department  
 1-800-748-1651, Ext. 29588



## Pray this day for...

December 7-20, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

**THE POINT OF PRAYER** - "The point of prayer is not to get answers from God, but to have oneness with Him. If we pray only because we want answers, we will become irritated and angry with God."

Oswald Chambers

Muslims are called to prayer five times a day. What if every Christian would sincerely pray to our Sovereign God five times a day? May our Heavenly Father move our hearts to intercede for Muslims that they may come to know Him.

As a young Chinese Christian watched the horrific events of Sept. 11, she was overwhelmed. She thought about the brevity of life, and knew that she had to share Christ with her father and mother. Pray that that day they accepted Christ into their hearts.

Pray for David and Donnie Garreth in Jacksonville, Fla. David is director of church and community ministries of the Jacksonville Association. Donnie is involved in Women's Job Corps as well as computer training and reading programs for women.

In a celebration service held at a church in Buenos Aires, Argentina, eight people were baptized and six people made professions of faith. Pray for the pastor and leaders as they give people an opportunity to know the Lord around the fellowship of Bible studies.

For: (1) Nehemiah Project, Baptist Building, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (SM); (2) Pray for the needs of Christian professor Shiao Bi Guang and his wife, Gou Quing Hui. He spent three years in prison, and they continue to be harassed by Chinese authorities.

Pray for the junior college girls with whom journeyman Heidi Schwenneson, in Japan, meets each week. They asked, "What made you become a Christian?" and "When do you read your Bible?" Pray that the Word of God will take root and grow in their hearts.

A Thai-owned restaurant chain ordered 250,000 copies of James Dobson's book, "Home with a Heart," translated into the Thai language. They will give them away at all their restaurants. Pray that each book would be received, read and taken to heart.

Julian and Deborah Burch in Southfield, Mich, are multiethnic church planters. Julian is pastor of Community of Hope Baptist Mission in downtown, Detroit. Pray for Deborah's health. Pray for members to get excited for the Lord's work of praying for and reaching lost souls.

Missionaries Vance and Cherry Kirkpatrick of E. Africa will teach at Southwestern Baptist Seminary next semester. Pray for Vance's wisdom and knowledge as he prepares and for special relationship with teachers and students, resulting in some being called to missions.

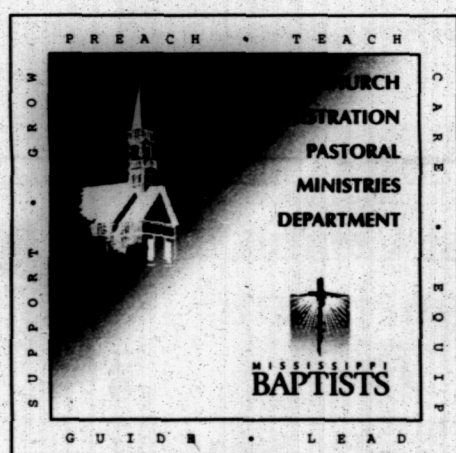
Pray for a national believer as she teaches an English-as-a-Foreign-Language class in Colentina, a suburb of Bucharest, Romania. Forty-six people attended the first class, and 65 were at the second one. Ask the Lord to use this class to open doors to hearts.

Thank God that on Tuesday, Nov. 6, in Columbia, S.C., the largest group of long-term IMB Southern Baptist workers ever were appointed in a single service (118), bringing the total number of long-term SB missionaries worldwide to 6,128.

God has blessed the work of local believers and the missionaries in starting new churches among the Banyankore of Uganda. The greatest need is for trained leaders. Pray that the next training meeting will be very effective.

Pray for missionaries David and Carol Hill on medical leave. Their son, Mark, 13, is struggling with the adjustment of not returning to Brazil. Recently he attempted to run away to get back to Brazil, so he is now in a children's behavioral therapy center. Pray for Mark's quick recovery.

For: (1) Cultural awareness, First Int'l BC, Mississippi City (SM); (2) For the translation work on the "Jesus" film for the deaf of Colombia. It is being closed-captioned in Spanish and subtitled in format, as well as in Colombian sign language.



## CHURCH ADMINISTRATION- PASTORAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

For more info, call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305.

## FOUR EVENTS FOR PASTOR-STAFF AND CHURCH LEADER TRAINING

### Church Business Administration Conferences

January 31, 2002, at First Baptist Church, Madison  
"Legal Issues: Church Law, Liabilities, and Insurance"

February 1, 2002, at Adaton Baptist Church, Starkville  
"Legal Issues: Church Law, Liabilities, and Insurance"

• • •

### One-Day Pastor & Staff Workshops

February 11, 2002, at First Baptist Church, Richland  
"Challenges in Worship, Evangelism and Church Leadership to Reach Post-Moderns with the Gospel of Jesus Christ"

February 12, 2002, at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grenada  
"Keeping Your Heart for God and Ministry"

# HOUSE TOPS



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Graves, McDaniel, and Aultman

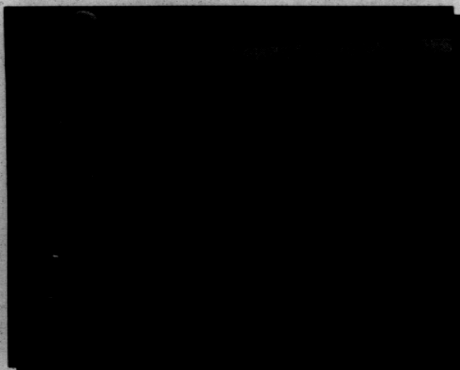
**Military Church, Sumrall**, held a deacon ordination service for Keith Graves and Terry McDaniel on Sept. 2. Pictured (from left) are Graves, McDaniel, and Mike Aultman, pastor.

**Big Level Church, Wiggins**, held deacon ordination services on Oct. 21 for Jeremy Bond. Pictured with Bond (left) is David Perry, pastor.



Bond and Perry

**John Johnson** received a pin for 41 years of perfect attendance at Salem Church, Lauderdale Association.



Johnson

**Mars Hill Church, Summit**, honored Clay and Anita Campbell on Nov. 4, for 20 years of service in the music ministry. Pictured (from left) are Brett Campbell, pastor; and Anita and Clay Campbell.



Brett Campbell, and Anita and Clay Campbell



**Bethlehem Church, Forkville**, held a deacon ordination service for Albert Baker on Sept. 16. Pictured (from left) are Baker and Stephen Lanier, pastor.



**YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## Look at the big picture.

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HEALTH SYSTEM

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Under age 65 . . . New Low Rates! Drug Card!
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Ages 65 and over. Low Rates! Drug card!
- ☐ **Major Medical & Surgical Plan**  
Helps pay benefits for: Hospital Room, Intensive Care, Surgery. Drug card available.
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Plan offers: full pay off of your mortgage should you die. Return of all premiums paid should you live until the end of the term!

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Brandon, MS 39047  
call toll-free:  
**1-800-880-2305**

Agents needed.

For complete details on all plans including limitations and exclusions call today. Not connected with any federal program.





Blue Mountain College presented Miss Blue Mountain College and her court recently for the 2001-2002 school year. Pictured (from left) are Heather Smith, Ripley, sophomore maid; Shanna Wilbanks, Ripley, senior maid; Abby Childs, Ripley, sophomore maid; Crystal Kilpatrick, Waynesboro, Tenn., senior maid; April Mask, Shannon, maid of honor; Corina McCormick, Imperial, Nebr., Miss Blue Mountain College; Kami Swords, New Albany, junior maid; Monica Pumphrey, Tupelo, freshman maid; Misty Huggins, Middleton, Tenn., freshman maid; and Rebecca Dalton, New Albany, junior maid.

**Disciple's Cross** of Blue Mountain College consists of a praise band with singers who lead worship at youth events, lock-ins, retreats, and various other ministries. Students include Kenny White, Southaven; Heather Ward, Memphis, Tenn.; Seth Kirkland, Picayune; Sarah Smith, Baldwin; and Danny Brashier, Bartlett, Tenn. For more information, contact Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771, ext. 137.

**King's Troupe** of Blue Mountain College shares the gospel through drama with short skits, monologues, and mimes. Students participating include Chris Roberts, Starkville; Dawn Russell, Eupora; Heather Carpenter, Dumas; Bonnie Baxter, Horn Lake; Shanna Riker, Memphis, Tenn.; Rose Marie Upchurch, Walnut; Misty Huggins, Middleton, Tenn.; Traci Bell, Lake Village, Ark.; Libby Brawley, West Memphis, Ark.; and Ian McAnally, Corinth. For more information, contact Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771, ext. 137.



Disciple's Cross of Blue Mountain College

**The Reflections group** of Blue Mountain College performs Christian music in an effort to share the Gospel. The group consists of Rebekah Morris, Huntsville, Ala.; Laura Carpenter, Winona; Bradley Geno, Tupelo; Kimberly Kyle, Selmer, Tenn.; and Kristen Lamb, Oxford. For more information, contact Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771, ext. 137.



Reflections group of Blue Mountain College



King's Troupe of Blue Mountain College

**The Bobby Halford Holiday Baseball Camp** will be held Dec. 27-29 on the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg. The camp will be for ages 7-17 and will include all phases of the game. A special feature of the three-day session will be specialty catching and hitting instruction. Cost for the three-day session is \$100, which includes noon meal, camp T-shirt, and insurance. For more information, call (601)

582-6110 or the external relations office at 582-6192, or write Coach Bobby Halford, William Carey College, 498 Tuscan Avenue, Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5461.

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Open Vessels of Blue Mountain College

**Open Vessels**, a clown team and puppet team from Blue Mountain College, perform skits, monologues, and mimes. Team members are Sandra Foster, Meridian; Leigh Benefield, Ripley; Lori Sanders, Meridian; and Debra Francis, Bryan, Ohio. For more information, call Tracy Moser at (662) 685-4771, ext. 137.

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## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Deacons of Gore Springs Church, North Central Association

**Gore Springs Church, North Central Association**, ordained W.P. Black as deacon on Oct. 21. Pictured (from left, front row) are Jeff Howell, pastor; and Black; (back row) Larry Blakely, Joe Max Blakely, Russell Tindall, and Doug Thompson, deacons.

**Barnes Crossing Church, Saltillo**, held deacon ordination services for Anthony Johnston and Johnny McCauley. Pictured (from left) are Johnston; James Carter; McCauley; David Jensen; and J. D. Johnson, pastor. Participants (not pictured) were Tim McMillian, pastor of Priceville

Church, Tupelo; and Henry Jenkins, pastor of Shiloh Church, Mantachie.



Wells and Duvall



**Deacon ordination services** were held Nov. 11 at Bluff Springs Church, Magnolia, for Richie Fortenberry and Wayne Hedgepeth. Pictured (from left) are Victor Walsh, who gave the charge to the church; Fortenberry; Hedgepeth; and William Wall, pastor.

**Michael Wells** was ordained to the ministry at Grace Church, Philadelphia, on Oct. 14. He has been called to Sardis Church, Philadelphia, as pastor. Pictured (from left) are Wells and Dennis Duvall, pastor.

**Parkway Church, Pascagoula**, licensed Coy Rice (pictured) to the ministry on Nov. 4. He is presently serving as music minister and teaches an adult

Sunday School class.



Rice



Harrison, Burns, and Herrington

**Castlewoods Church, Brandon**, recently ordained Troy Harrison, Oliver Burns, and Bubba Herrington as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Harrison, Burns, and Herrington.

**Sam Mabry Jr.** served as church treasurer of Liberty Church, Liberty, for 23 years. Martin Hayden, pastor, presented him with a plaque recently in recognition of his service. Pictured (from left) are Mabry and Hayden.



Mabry and Hayden

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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### The hope of Christmas

Romans 15:1-13

By J. Michael Barnett

Christmas is a time of great words. Rejoice, cheer, celebrate, and merry are among the wonderful words of the holiday season.

There is one word that stands out. It is a complicated compound word that even Scrooge would find pleasant to his ears. It is the word "lay-a-way."

While doing your Christmas shopping and putting things on lay-a-way it is good to be reminded of the truths found in Romans 15. There is so much hope in Jesus that some of it is on lay-a-way.

Jesus is a present hope. Paul is expressing that Jesus is not only the hope of Israel but for the Gentile peoples as well.

The hope of salvation was never intended to be exclusively for the Jews. Yes, the Jews have many advantages. (see Rom 3:1). They were granted the "oracles of God," and the Gospel was revealed to them first in chronological order.

However, the promise of Christ was not only for the Jew. The promise to Abraham in Genesis 22 is that from his seed the whole earth would be blessed.

Paul quotes three promises from the Old Testament illustrating that in Christ, God has kept his word and brought hope to the Gentile nations.

Romans 15:9 is a quote from Psalm 18:49. Psalm 18 is a thanksgiving Psalm in which David is looking back over

decades of victories over the surrounding Gentile nations. The Holy Spirit taught David that one-day he would confess and sing of the Messiah with the Gentile peoples.

The second quotation (Deuteronomy 32:43) comes from the song of Moses. It is the song that Moses composed for the people of Israel just prior to his death. The quotation speaks of Jew and Gentile together as God's people.

Paul also quotes Psalm 117, the shortest of all the Psalms. It is directed to the nations of the world and calls upon them to rejoice in the merciful kindness and truth of God.

To the Gentile who is alienated from the common wealth of Israel, and a foreigner to the covenants and promises, without hope and without God in the world (see Eph 2.12), Jesus is hope.

Romans 1:16 makes the hope of Christ clear: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of

God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Jesus is a prophetic hope. While Romans 15:12 is a quote from Isaiah 11:1, the context is found in the prophet's tenth chapter. Sennacherib the Assyrian will fall under the judgment of God for cutting Israel down like a tree.

The huge cedars of Lebanon are used metaphorically of Assyria (see Isa. 10:33-34). Like a tornado God slices through the Gentile forest with his axe of judgment. Then from the most unlikely stump (the line of Jesse) comes hope, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The prophecy quickly takes a turn from the language of judgment and speaks of Jesus ruling over the Gentiles and the Gentiles trusting him as Lord and Savior.

This is a present hope, for Gentiles came to Christ at his birth and continue to come to him for salvation. The verse is also prophetic, it is on lay-a-

way until Christ comes and the hope within the believer becomes the manifested during Christ reign.

The Bible teaches that Christ came first to his own people, the Jews. In doing so he "confirmed" the promises made to the patriarchs that the Gentiles, indeed the whole world, might glorify God in salvation (see Romans 15:8).

The word "confirm" comes from the world of commerce, meaning a legal guarantee of trade or purchase. It means to establish a commitment or promise by fulfilling it. The first coming of Christ confirmed the promise of God's offer of salvation to Jew and Gentile.

A lay-a-way hope is also confirmed, and that is the second coming of Jesus. The whole world Jew and Gentile alike are invited to participate in the new song of redemption (see Rev 5:9-10) and rejoice in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Barnett is pastor of First Church, Ocean Springs.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### The God of great power

Deuteronomy 4:32-40

By Carleen McGraw

In the first three chapters of Deuteronomy, Moses reminded the people of all the laws and commands God had given them. In chapter 4, he stresses the importance of obedience to these laws and commands "so that you may go in and take possession of the land that the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you" (4:1).

The laws and commands God has given them are complete. The people are not to add to nor take from them; they are simply to obey them as God has given them.

Moses' reason for teaching all the decrees and laws the Lord had commanded was so that they could follow them "in

the land you are entering to take possession of it." As they observed and obeyed the laws and decrees of God, they would be able to impress the nations about them with their wisdom and understanding (4:6).

Moses then calls on them to remember the miracles — "do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live" (4:9). Though the people had never seen God, they had seen what he had done for them.

In 4:32-40, Moses invites the people to think back in their history to days long before their time, even from the days of creation, and see if they could come up with anything that would compare with the things their genera-

tion had been privileged to live through.

No other nation had ever "heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived." Theirs was the only God who would even have attempted to take a nation — made up of some two million disorganized, inexperienced slaves — out of the most powerful nation on earth at the time, "by testings, by miraculous signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds like all the things the Lord your God did ... before your very eyes" (4:34).

No other nation in existence had ever experienced anything like this Hebrew nation had experienced. Nothing like what they had experienced had ever happened to any other nation, nor had such things even been heard of (v. 32). Because God was faithful to his covenant with their forefathers whom he loved, he had brought their descendants out

of Egypt by his own power.

His reason for bringing this generation out of Egypt was so that he might "drive out before you nations greater and stronger than you and to bring you into their land to give it to you for your inheritance, as it is today" (4:38). Moses is saying, "Listen up, you Hebrews! Yours is the most powerful God in existence! Hear and obey him!"

Moses' greatest desire is that these people will realize their God is awesome, he is all-powerful. He would honor the covenant he made because he loved their forefathers. He is the same God who loves them and will provide everything they need to take the land they are about to enter.

God's love, his miracles, his testings, his leadership, his blessings on them had one purpose: that his people "might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other" (4:35). What they had heard and seen had been done to educate, to instruct them con-

cerning their powerful God. "Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other" (4:39).

In vv. 41-43, Moses set up three cities to serve as "cities of refuge" for the benefit of someone who "had unintentionally killed his neighbor." These cities were set up for the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the Manassites who had chosen to settle east of the Jordan.

Even today in this 21st century, there is still no other God. He saw the sins of all people of every race and culture even from the beginning. He loved all mankind, and he knew there was only one way to cover all their sins. So "...he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God is still all powerful; his mercy and love still unlimited. Share his love today.

McGraw is a member of First Church, Louisville.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

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no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

☐ **YES!** I want to help  
The Baptist Children's Village  
be a lighthouse for hurting families  
and children in Mississippi during  
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Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of...

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### NOVEMBER 1-30, 2001 MEMORIALS

#### Brothers and Sisters

Mrs. Eugenia M. Therrell  
Mrs. Cola Adams  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins



# Missionaries tackle Swazi AIDS attitudes



**HANDS OFF** — This young Swazi girl wears the traditional "umchwasho" headband, which warns men not to touch her because she is a virgin. Elders in Swaziland hope going back to traditions like the umchwasho may help combat HIV and AIDS. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)

## Bibliocipher

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KHJ ALMELXFNXPXGXF LX  
XHEXFJ, MHEP GMRRK-  
SXN, PF YMEMXN, PF  
YPDHEFO, ELXO RKMJ ELX  
NMYU MH ELX NEFXEN,  
KHJ WXNPDSLE LMZ ELKE  
ELXO ZMSLE EPDYL MV  
ME AXFX WDE ELX  
WPFJXF PV LMN SKFZX-  
HE; KHJ KN ZKHO KN  
EPDYLXJ LMZ AXFX ZKJX  
ALPRX.

ZKFU NMC: VMVEO-NMC

Clue: M = I

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Six: Thirty-Five.

MBABANE, Swaziland (BP) — The young girl listens intently to the guest speaker. A boy sitting behind pulls her ponytail. She turns to make a face at him and then adjusts the beaded band holding the ponytail in place.

If her father found out a boy touched it, she could get in big trouble. As long as she is wearing the blue and yellow headpiece, boys and men are not supposed to touch her.

The ponytail, known as "umchwasho" (oom-chw-ah-show), looks like a large tassel connected to a strand of beads. It announces to all that she is a virgin. The band requires girls to abstain from sex or from even kissing someone from the opposite sex.

The age-old Swazi custom is back with hopes of it eradicating the HIV/AIDS pandemic. International Mission Board (IMB) missionary Mary Wood hopes the umchwasho works as a reminder to save sex for marriage, but she knows this symbol alone will not stamp out the deadly virus.

Wood spends her days promoting God's way of preventing HIV/AIDS in schools, hospitals, and churches.

The retired Houston nurse left her home in Texas after hearing how AIDS was wiping out an entire generation of Africans. What she found in

Swaziland was not exactly what she expected.

In the news, AIDS in Africa is shown as emaciated people wasting away in the hospital.

"It's kind of strange that you don't see people like that here," Wood said. "So many have HIV and you don't even know it."

You don't see it in the streets or homes. Yet all the United Nations reports say HIV is here. This small kingdom has so much of it that Swaziland is ranked second among all African countries for HIV infection.

AIDS, nicknamed the "slimming disease" because of the vast weight loss it inevitably causes, might be better named the "hidden disease" in Swaziland.

Everyone knows HIV is there. Street vendors talk on and on about the problem, yet no one seems to personally know someone with the disease. They say, "Everyone here is healthy looking."

Looks can be deceiving, though. "Most people think if you're HIV-positive, you must be skinny and look like a walking ghost," one youth says, "but that's not true. I have had HIV for two years and I look just like my peers."

Statistics show that almost 43% of those between the ages of 20-29 are already HIV-positive. More than 25% of youth under the age of 20 also test positive for HIV.

AIDS is a problem on the rise. While you cannot see the drastic physical changes at first glance in this small country of 900,000 people, you can see the social and economic problems related to the disease right off.

What you can see are orphans, widows, and families struggling to survive and grandparents who are raising 10 or more grandchildren orphaned by the dreaded disease. You can see the international sign for AIDS Awareness, a red ribbon, in the beaded artwork in the marketplace. The



**ENCOURAGING WORDS** — International Mission Board missionary Mary Wood speaks to a young Swazi woman during a weekly hospital visit. Wood visits the children's ward mainly to speak to the grandmothers, aunts, and mothers staying with the children. She offers encouragement to the women, who most likely have HIV since their children suffer from AIDS. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)

red ribbon is even a permanent fixture on the cover of the national magazine.

Everyone is aware of the problem, but no one deals with it or even recognizes it.

"No one ever admits to it if they do know they have AIDS or HIV," Wood said, "but mainly, most people just don't know because they won't get tested."

Government prevention campaigns tout the ABCs all over town. The signs exhort its citizens to "Abstain, Be Faithful and Condomize."

Most have never heard of the biblical ABCs Wood teaches. She teaches "Abstain, be faithful to your marriage partner, and follow Christ."

Most health agencies never bring in the love of Jesus Christ as a way of prevention, but Wood feels that is the only way AIDS will be beat.

God is the willpower to

remain pure until marriage and during marriage. Just doing this is breaking cultural customs.

"They say 100% of girls have sex before marriage just to prove that they are fertile. It is also an accepted practice here for boys to experiment sexually," Wood said. "It's also accepted practice for men to have mistresses."

Wood spends a lot of her time visiting schools, especially high schools and middle schools, in hopes that the leaders of tomorrow will be the ones to break the silence.

Most are surprised when she tells them AIDS cannot be 100% prevented by using condoms.



**AIDS ORPHANS** — First graders line up for opening assembly at school. Because of the AIDS pandemic in Swaziland, many children have only one parent or no parents at all and live with their grandparents. Swaziland officials estimate that by only way to 2016 there will be more than 300,000 AIDS orphans have enough in their country alone. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)

"If I wanted to be rich, I would have stayed in America and invested in a condom company," she tells a group of middle-schoolers, "but I care for you and don't want you to get sick."

Editor's note: Meet the missionaries of the Swazi people group team: <http://members.aol.com/xblinkemx/swazi/index.htm>.



**DEADLY WARNING** — Sidewalks leading to the central bus stop in Mbabane, Swaziland, are lined with murals and signs promoting HIV/AIDS awareness. Maria Shandu (left) and Southern Baptist missionary Mary Wood work to help Swazi youth understand that Jesus Christ can give them the strength to resist their culture's sexual promiscuity and stay free of HIV infection. (Photo by Sue Sprenkle)